

Service Area Plan

Department of Social Services

Other Payments to Human Services Organizations (49203)

Service Area Background Information

Service Area Description

This service area funds four contracts with different entities to support the mission of the Department and provide important services to low-income Virginians across the Commonwealth. The services provided through these contracts include emergency food services, nutrition education, homeless prevention and shelter support services, post-secondary educational services for TANF participants, and an asset creation initiative for low-income individuals.

The specific contracts and their annual appropriation are as follows: Virginia Tech (\$9.6 million) to fund nutrition education services delivered by the Cooperative Extension to Food Stamp participants; United Community Ministries (\$38,250) to fund emergency food services and information and referral services; St. Paul's College (\$85,000) for post-secondary education services for TANF participants; the Department of Housing and Community Development (\$360,000) to fund community organizations to operate the Virginia Individual Development Account program which matches savings of low-income families to promote asset creation; the Department of Housing and Community Development (\$4,910,128) to fund homeless shelters for the provision of homeless prevention and shelter services. By law, the programs funded by these contracts must serve low-income Virginians. The TANF block grant can only fund services to low-income families and the nutrition education program can only serve Food Stamp participants who must have a net income of 130% of poverty or below.

Service Area Alignment to Missio

Each of these programs support low-income families, assisting them in strengthening individuals, their families, and the capacity of their communities to address a myriad of needs including education, nutrition assistance, teen and non-marital pregnancy prevention, and asset creation.

Service Area Statutory Authority

Public Law 104-193, the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act passed in August of 1996, eliminated the open-ended federal entitlement program of Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) and created a block grant for states to provide time-limited cash assistance and services for needy families.

The Food Stamp nutrition program is administered by the U. S. Department of Agriculture and federal statutory authority is the Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended; federal regulations are codified at Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR).

The Appropriations Act of 2005 allocates the funds for each of these initiatives.

Service Area Customer Base

Customer(s)	Served	Potential
General Public	0	0
Low income individuals and families (served unknown; potential unlimited)	0	0

Anticipated Changes In Service Area Customer Bas

The increase in population diversity and increase in the number of individuals living in poverty in the Commonwealth (28% increase from 2000 – 2003) will create a larger, more diverse customer base.

Service Area Partners

Community Action Agencies

State agencies

Statewide community action organizations

Service Area Plan

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Service Area Products and Services

- Education Services
- Housing
- Support of organizations serving communities
- Services to protect vulnerable adults
- Economic assistance to low income families/individuals or nutrition, child care, health care eligibility, and financial assistance to low income families/individuals

Factors Impacting Service Area Products and Services

In addition to having a larger and more culturally diverse population eligible for services, TANF reauthorization could have a significant impact this service area because the proposed changes would require the Commonwealth to serve twice as many individuals, making it difficult to sustain TANF allocations outside of the formal TANF cash assistance and workforce program. The legislation proposed to date in both the House and Senate make significant changes to the current program including a “universal engagement” provision which would require all adult participants to be engaged in either a work or self-sufficiency activity. This change would require Virginia to provide service to twice as many individuals each month, make significant infrastructure changes, and pay for an increased demand for child care services.

Anticipated Changes To Service Area Products and Service

The Department anticipates more multi-lingual products and services.

Service Area Financial Summary

The budget for this service area is a combination of federal TANF and Food Stamp funds. Matching funds of \$4.8 million come from Virginia Tech funding sources and are appropriated in that university’s budget.

	<u>Fiscal Year 2007</u>		<u>Fiscal Year 2008</u>	
	General Fund	Nongeneral Fund	General Fund	Nongeneral Fund
Base Budget	\$0	\$10,160,878	\$0	\$10,160,878
Changes To Base	\$4,800,000	\$0	\$3,800,000	\$0
SERVICE AREA TOTAL	\$4,800,000	\$10,160,878	\$3,800,000	\$10,160,878

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Service Area Objectives, Measures, and Strategies

Objective 49203.01

Improve the nutrition choices among Virginia's low-income families

An effective nutrition education program can improve the nutrition outcomes for low-income families, thus improving their overall health.

This Objective Supports the Following Agency Goals:

- Cultivate a diverse workforce capable of accomplishing the system's mission
(The Department's mission includes assisting individuals and families in building strong futures for themselves and their families. Improving nutrition and health assists in building strong individuals and families.)

This Objective Has The Following Measure(s):

- **Measure 49203.01.01**

Total number of individuals completing nutrition education courses.

Measure Type: Output

Measure Frequency: Quarterly

Measure Baseline: New measure, baseline data not available. Baseline will be established using FY06 data.

Measure Target: Specific target will be determined once baseline is established.

Measure Source and Calculation:

Data reported to VDSS from Virginia Tech

Objective 49203.01 Has the Following Strategies:

- Implement on-line courses and on-line curricula content and teaching guides.
- Direct marketing of nutrition course content to Food Stamp participants.
- Modifying course content and delivery for different demographic groups.